

**REMARKS**

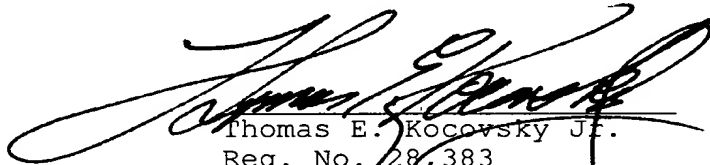
After reviewing the allowed claims, the inventor asked that claim 10 be amended as indicated on page 3.

The proposed amendment requires no further search or consideration and does not change the scope of claim 10. Claim 10 currently claims a perforated plate, but makes no requirement that there be a single perforated plate. To the contrary, patent claims are normally interpreted open-ended such that an otherwise infringing apparatus would still fall within the scope of the claim if it had two, three, or more plates. The proposed added language merely emphasizes that which was understood or ready, i.e., that claim 10 calls for at least one perforated plate. Accordingly, it is requested that the Examiner accommodate the inventor and approve the entry of this Rule 312 Amendment.

An early indication that this proposed Amendment has been entered is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this **RULE 312 AMENDMENT AND ISSUE FEE** in connection with U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/831,213 are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP: ISSUE FEE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2004.

By: Nilary McNulty